

# Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.

## Speaker recounts life, times of civil rights leader

By Karl Weisel  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

“I’d like to speak of a giant who stood only five feet, six inches.” That “giant” was the focus of the 141st Signal Battalion’s Martin Luther King Jr. Observance in Wiesbaden’s Flyers Theater Jan. 7. Lt. Col. Barrye L. Price, executive officer and military assistant to the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and the author of several writings related to African-American military history and the civil rights movement, spoke to soldiers and civilians at the 1st Armored Division Equal Opportunity sponsored observances in Wiesbaden, Dexheim, Baumholder and Giessen in celebration of King’s birthday. “If I were to ask the question, ‘Who was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?’ you might say he was a dreamer,” said Price. “Those more learned on Dr. King might regard him as a great orator.” Other people remember the civil rights leader as a great writer or a champion for justice – but he embodied all of those characteristics, said Price. “It is my hope that we’ll all gain a better understanding of King’s impact on



Lt. Col. Barrye L. Price shares his thoughts and research on Martin Luther King Jr. with Wiesbaden soldiers and civilians.

American history as opposed to African-American history.” Born in Atlanta, Ga., on Jan. 15, 1929, it wasn’t long before King became aware of the intolerance and racial stereotyping that pervaded American society. “He was

only 6 when he had his first discriminatory experience,” said Price, explaining how the mother of two childhood friends told his parents that it was no longer acceptable for them to enjoy free time together, saying, “My boys are getting too

old to play with niggers.” “The shadow of racial discrimination and hatred had been cast on Martin Luther King,” said Price, describing other incidents where the young Martin was a witness to racial profiling of his father by Atlanta policemen while out for a drive in the 1930s, and later in high school while traveling to compete in an oratorical contest when he was forced to move to the back of the bus to make room for white passengers.

Entering Morehouse College at the age of 15, King immersed himself in the study of the humanities, learning about other human rights leaders such as Mohandas K. Gandhi and his passive resistance movement to gain independence for India from Great Britain. “The more he read the clearer it became to him that he was regarded as inferior. ... The reality of life for Negroes

**“The shadow of racial discrimination and hatred had been cast on Martin Luther King.”**

King’s upbringing in a religious household, the son of a reverend, was important to teaching him at an early age that education was the key to a useful life and spirituality the key to a moral life, Price said.

The one-year-and-16-day bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., sparked by Rosa Parks’ refusal to

move to the back of the bus in the mid-1950s, served as a springboard for King’s future battles with the established racist policies prevalent in many facets of everyday life. “Next he tackled education reform,” said Price. “From the student sit-ins evolved the student nonviolent committees.”

After Montgomery’s buses were desegregated, King formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Throughout the years of arrests, attacks and the outright hatred he faced on a daily basis for standing up for the disenfranchised, King never lost his sense of humor, said Price, describing a pillow fight he had with his fellow civil rights leaders in Memphis, Tenn., the day before he was cut down by an assassin’s bullet on April 4, 1968. “He really had a phenomenal sense of humor.”

He was also a brilliant strategist. “King planned carefully for protest marches,” said Price, explaining how King would arrange marches so that only those who could “afford” to be arrested and could stand the abuse and still remain nonviolent were in the front ranks. “He asked marchers if they could endure being spit on, beaten and the ordeal of jail.”

An anti-segregation march in Birmingham in 1963 where protesters were assaulted by police dogs and water hoses on orders from Birmingham police commissioner Eugene “Bull” Connor was “one of King’s greatest victories,” he said. Despite the brutal attacks and sheer hatred displayed by public officials, the



Photo by Benedict J. Fernandez  
Martin Luther King collects his thoughts while surrounded by a crowd at the United Nations in New York on April 15, 1967. The photographer became friends with King and his family while covering the civil rights leader.

protesters remained nonviolent.

While most people are familiar with King’s famous “I have a dream” speech, Price encouraged everyone to become more familiar with some of his other writings such as his letter from the Birmingham jail, Nobel Prize acceptance speech and other speeches such as those that captured his belief in always striving to solve problems through peaceful means rather than violence. “War is a poor chisel to carve out peace,” said Price, quoting King.

“Let us remember him as a man defined by conscience, not by destiny. ... Let us strive to embrace his vision,” said Price.



Dexheim Beauty Shop hairstylist Richard Adam puts the finishing touches on Stephanie Cordero's haircut at the facility on Anderson Barracks.

## Dexheim’s beauty specialists AAFES concession features wide range of hair, nail services

Story and photos by  
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“We’ve been here since November and some people on this post still don’t even know we’re here,” said A. Natascha Morgan, owner of the Dexheim Beauty Shop.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service concession, located in Building 6320 (adjacent to the PX) on Dexheim’s Anderson Barracks, features a full line of hair and nail care services for men and women including haircuts, hair styling, manicures, design nails, nail polishing, hair color treatments and more.

### Demand for nail care services

“When we first started AAFES (officials) said all we would be doing is hair, but I’m swamped with nail customers,” said Morgan during a busy Saturday Jan. 4 as she worked on a customer’s nails and her colleague Richard Adam finished cutting another customer’s hair. “If the demand is high and people appreciate the business we’ll look at expanding our hours and operation,” added Morgan. “We

only work with top-of-the-line products. We also have a special every month.”

### Full line of beauty products available

Morgan, who said she has been working on nails for 26 years and has operated a well-established nail salon in downtown Wiesbaden for more than seven years, said the Dexheim facility features a full line of beauty products including Nexxus, Paul Mitchell, Motions, EZ Flow and

Wella. “Some beauty shops don’t carry those products because of the expense of the initial investment.”

“She really knows how to pick colors,” said Arnita Etienne, a regular patron of the Dexheim Beauty Shop. “My friend told me about it. I like how she calls me to let me know when there’s an earlier opening due to a cancellation.”

“We’re glad that we’re here,” said Morgan, “but we want to let more people know about our services. The Beauty Shop is open

Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on payday Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All of our employees have many years of experience in what they do.

“We do all male and female hair care services and all nail services,” she said. “We also do wonderful feet.”

While the facility closes at 6 p.m. weekdays, soldiers can come in for a quick haircut or a manicure on their lunch break, Morgan said.

“It’s always a good idea to make an appointment. Also please be considerate and cancel your appointment in advance if you can’t make the appointment,” she said. “That’s just being considerate to us as well as other customers.”

### Appointments available for haircuts

“We charge the same as the barber shop for a military haircut — \$7 — and an added benefit is that you can make appointments at our facility,” she said.

For more information about services, products and to make an appointment at the Dexheim Beauty Shop call civ (06133) 570 9982.



A. Natascha Morgan (right), owner of the Dexheim Beauty Shop, works on applying an acrylic fill to Arnita Etienne's nails. The AAFES concession provides a wide range of nail and hair care services for men and women.

# Evolution of Equal Employment Opportunity

## Addressing issues before they become unmanageable

By Karl Weisel  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Equal Employment Opportunity has evolved considerably over the years, said Grace Ross, EEO manager for the 104th Area Support Group.

“In the past EEO may have been seen as a complaint processing center,” she said. “It seemed the reason for our existence was simply to process complaints, but we have a new focus these days. The push is now on for mediation, arbitration, conciliation – whatever we can do to keep issues from escalating into something that’s unmanageable.”

With a wide array of tools aimed at helping employees and supervisors better understand the commander’s EEO program the Army has improved the complaint process, with alternative dispute resolution and the redraft of AR 690-600. EEO objectives include

assisting managers in their efforts to ensure fair and equal treatment in the workplace. “We want managers to know that we can do more to help educate employees and to support managers in confronting issues. ... Sometimes the smallest things create such a huge fervor when they could have been addressed early on,” Ross said.

“I think everyone is of the same mindset. We all want to make sure that we are all working on the same sheet of music to make for a more cohesive team,” she said, adding, “If there are legitimate concerns we make sure they go to the area where they can be addressed and fixed.”

“We don’t allow individuals to manipulate the system. That’s because there’s better guidance now,” Ross said.

“We’re kind of like a consultant. We have direct access to commanders and directors, and they have direct access to us. If there’s an area

where someone feels there may be problems we can go in and use sensing sessions to determine the issues,” she said, explaining that EEO can help directors and supervisors get a better handle on areas of concern when EEO is visible within their organization before complaints occur. “For me, I find it better to make regular, periodic visits to organizations and spend some time talking to individuals about any issues or concerns before they become complaints. We are really more proactive than in the past.”

Training plays a vital role in ensuring all members of an organization are aware of their rights and responsibilities, she said. “Some of the training we offer includes team building, consideration of others, improving diversity, prevention of sexual harassment, mentor training, group problem solving and proactive measures to help build a better team as



Grace Ross, 104th ASG EEO manager, discusses the many programs available.

far as communication and understanding.”

EEO also features special emphasis programs aimed at increasing awareness about the rich diversity of the work force and advancement potential, and the Affirmative Employment Program. “EEO is

also for job applicants. I’d like us to work more closely with the Civilian Personnel Office to promote recruiting and hiring of the disabled, women and minorities,” she said. “For instance studies have shown that women in grades GS-12 and above are

underrepresented across the Army. And it gets slimmer at the higher levels. The Army recognizes that and is working to improve conditions.”

“We do a better job of listening than we did in the past,” said Ross. “Our job is a lot more rewarding and enjoyable than it was 10 years ago. We also find that 90 percent of people who come into EEO are not here for an EEO complaint. The may have personal issues or other issues that can be resolved somewhere else.”

For more information about EEO in your community call the 221st Base Support Battalion EEO Office in Wiesbaden at mil 337-5610, 222nd BSB EEO in Baumholder at mil 485-7118, 284th BSB EEO in Giessen at mil 343-8520, 414th BSB EEO in Hanau at mil 322-8674 or the 104th ASG EEO Office at mil 322-8061. Be sure to stop by the new 104th ASG EEO home page to check out the many programs, points of contact and training available by browsing to [www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil](http://www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil) and clicking on “Equal Employment Opportunity.”